

Waivers

The State will make use of waivers provided by HUD in the Federal Register notice as necessary for the successful implementation of the funded activities. Subgrantees should refer to the Federal Register notice for information on waivers.

National Objective

All activities must meet one of the three national objectives set out in the Housing and Community Development Act (address slum and blight, urgent need, primarily benefit LMI persons). Up to 50 percent (rather than the 30 percent allowed by regular program regulations) of the State's grant may fund activities under the "urgent need" or "prevention or elimination of slums and blight" national objectives. At least 50 percent (rather than the 70 percent required under regular program regulations) must be utilized to serve LMI beneficiaries. All housing activities must meet the LMI national objective.

Citizen Participation and Public Comment*State Efforts*

The State published a notice in the Florida Administrative Weekly (FAW) on September 2, 2009, announcing the availability of the funding, the development of a draft Action Plan, and the application cycle. The notice appeared in the FAW on September 11, 2009. The information was also emailed to all local governments and posted to the Department's website. Comments from the public on the Action Plan were accepted from September 11, 2009 until September 26, 2009. Appendix B is a summary of public comments received. The funding cycle will open on October 27, 2009, and close on December 15, 2009. (The Department anticipates that the Action Plan will be approved by HUD within approximately 15 days of submittal. However, should the Department become aware of any issue that could affect the application cycle, the closing date will be extended and notification will be provided to all local governments. Such notification will also be posted to the Department's website.) In addition, the Department will make information available to other agencies and nonprofit organizations by publishing notices in the FAW and on its website.

*Local Efforts*

Because damage assessment data is available only at the county level, the unmet need data cannot be further broken down by jurisdictions within the county. Therefore, counties eligible to receive funds must consider the needs of all municipalities (and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes) within the incorporated as well as unincorporated area of the county (and reservations contiguous to the county). Counties should also consult with local housing providers regarding funding for affordable rental housing needs related to the storms. Counties must provide the Department with documentation that all parties were allowed an opportunity to discuss unmet needs and the best use of the funding. Counties may elect to have a municipality apply for and administer the funds if such municipality has the capacity, the greatest unmet need, and the majority of the funds will be expended within its jurisdiction. In all other cases, the county will be the applicant and will administer funding for projects located in affected municipalities as well as the unincorporated area.

Applicants will not be required to conduct public hearings or meetings to receive comments from residents of the community. Applicants will be required to post a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation and to their website, that states the types of projects to be undertaken, the source and amount of funding available for the activities, a date by which public comments must be made, and who to contact for a copy of the proposed application (i.e., name or office and telephone number). This notice, which must provide for a 10-day comment period, must be published prior to the submission of the application.